

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DLMACK

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:DLMACK

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P 251042Z JUL 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 184229 TOSEC 190141

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM CAIRO DATED JULY 25, 1976

SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9971

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, LE, EG

SUBJ: BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: STATE 184205 (TOSEC 190133

1. WITH SADAT AND FAHMY STILL IN ALEXANDRIA, I MET WITH MUHAMMED RIAD AS SOON AS HE CAME TO HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING AND GAVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE. HE UNDERTOOK PASS IT TO FAHMY AND THE PRESIDENT AT ONCE.

2. RIAD EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT SATISFACTORY EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT WITH THE PLO. HE DID COMMENT THAT HE WONDERED IF EVACUATION WAS REALLY NECESSARY, SINCE TODAY'S NEWS SUGGESTS THAT THERE MAY BE SOME PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANESE SITUATION - AL-KHOLI HAD APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING MARONITE

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AGREEMENT TO A CEASE-FIRE AND THE AL FORCES WERE ALSO ESTABLISHING

THEMSELVES MORE SECURELY IN THE BEIRUT BUFFER ZONE. I REMINDED HIM THAT OUR EVACUATION IS PROMPTED MAINLY BY THE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT AND THAT WE ARE NOT CLOSING OUR EMBASSY THERE. WE ARE SIMPLY DOING WHAT OTHERS HAVE ALREADY DONE.

RIAD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, NOTING THAT HE HAD JUST HEARD NEWS REPORT OF THE SOVIET DECISION TO REDUCE SHARPLY THEIR EMBASSY STAFF IN BEIRUT. IN ANY CASE, HE OBSERVED SADLY, NO ONE CAN REALLY BE SURE THAT THIS LATEST CEASE-FIRE WILL BE ANY MORE DURABLE THAN PREVIOUS ONES.

3. RIAD LEAVES FOR ALEXANDRIA THIS AFTERNOON TO BE THERE FOR SADAT'S JULY 26 SPEECH TO THE ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, LOCAL ASU REPS, THE CABINET, ETC. HE WILL NOT BE BACK UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING, BUT FAHMY'S DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET, AMR MUSA, WILL BE ON HAND TO RELAY ANY MESSAGES.

EILTS UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, SECURITY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, LIBERATION FRONTS, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1976
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greenet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE184229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:DLMACK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760286-0350
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760723/aaaaauie.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 184205
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greenet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greenet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT EVACUATION
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, LE, EG, US, PLO
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006